



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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WACO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGES

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton, Special Agent in Charge Harlan J. Carter of the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation, and Commander John Haigood of the Agriplex Drug Task Force announced that in Waco, Texas, this afternoon, 29-year-old Homar Fajardo pled guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit money laundering and unlawful use of a communication facility.

Appearing before United States District Judge Walter Smith, Jr., Fajardo admitted that beginning as early as July 1, 2001, he conspired with other individuals in a large-scale drug distribution operation. According to the factual basis in this case, Fajardo and others would acquire large quantities of cocaine from sources within the State of Texas and the Republic of Mexico. The narcotics were eventually sold and the derived proceeds were collected. Ultimately, the proceeds--bulk currency and other acquired assets--were delivered to Fajardo and others including suppliers in the Republic of Mexico to further the drug distribution operation.

During the course of the conspiracy, persons known and unknown, transported bulk currency and cocaine. Some of the assets were placed in nominee names in order to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of the assets and funds. In addition, these assets were used to further the ongoing illegal activity.

Fajardo faces up to 20 years in federal prison on the conspiracy to commit money laundering charge and up to four years in federal prison on the communication facility charge.

The case is being investigated by the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, the Woodway Police Department and the Agriplex Drug Task Force. Assistant United States Attorney Stephanie Smith-Burris is prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.